

Hyiwot Teshome
Statement of Faith

1 I believe in the one good, loving, and triune God - God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer, and
2 Holy Spirit the Mediator, which all share in the power, goodness, and eternal love of God. God
3 the Creator is the great ruler of heaven and the creator of all things. God the Son is the Word
4 made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit, the living presence of God amongst us,
5 was also present in the beginning and continues to work in the hearts of people, to speak through
6 the scriptures, equip humans and intercede on their behalf.
7 Christ is the Word of God that was before the beginning. God created the world with the word
8 and God communicated with us through Jesus, the Word.
9 God created and made humans special by creating us in the image of God. Being made in the
10 image of God, we have an imprint of God in all of us, making us invaluable in the eyes of God
11 and God's creation. God also gave us dominion over Creation and that gives us great authority
12 and responsibility to tend and nurture all God's creation. We are sinful and continue to sin both
13 individually when we don't love our brothers and sisters as we love ourselves. We sin
14 corporately as participants and even collaborators in systems that oppress, exploit, and are unjust
15 and unfair. Even then, through the grace and everlasting love of God, we continue to be favored
16 as the bearers of the image of God.
17 I believe Scripture to be the inspired, written Word of God and the authoritative and
18 indispensable rule of faith and life. Scripture teaches us about God's unfailing faithfulness and
19 relentless love. Scripture also teaches us the redeeming and reconciling work of God manifested
20 in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
21 I believe that salvation comes from God through Christ. In Jesus, God came to humanity. Jesus'
22 life invites us to a new kind of life with God. Jesus' teachings and ministry provide a renewed
23 and expanded promise of God's covenant with creation. Jesus revealed in his life and teachings
24 an inclusive, expansive, and more complete understanding of the love of God available to all of
25 creation. Jesus connects our lives with life in God and calls on us to live and act in accordance
26 with God's commands. Jesus' death at the cross defeats and transforms human death and the
27 distance created by our sinfulness is removed as we are reunited with God. Jesus' resurrection
28 proves the triumphant power of God over death and evil and God's redeeming work in this
29 world.
30 The reconnection with God and the invitation to live in the life of God according to the teachings
31 of Jesus calls all humans into the ministry of reconciliation, justice, and love. Thus the Church is
32 instituted, with Jesus as its head, as the instrument of God in this world. I believe this Church
33 welcomes everyone, just as Christ welcomed everyone, and declares to all the good news of his
34 salvation. The church gathers into membership all that are baptized in the name of the Father, the
35 Son, and Holy Spirit, and that confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Church is empowered to
36 proclaim the powerful story of the living God, to worship God, and continually pray and study to
37 better know God. God is fully present and the Holy Spirit moves within us and guides us as the
38 Word is read and proclaimed. God is also present in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's
39 Supper. In the waters of baptism, God claims us as members of Jesus' church and as children of
40 the covenant. In the Lord's Supper Jesus is present along with the bread and the wine as we
41 celebrate the transforming life and saving death of Jesus the Christ.
42 I believe in the resurrection of the individual and the renewal of all things and I believe that God
43 is sovereign over all that. Jesus' death and resurrection and God's love assure us of the sure and
44 certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life and that our future rests in God's loving hands. In
45 the meantime, we are to strive to bring that Kingdom of God to this world as we await the return
46 of Jesus Christ and the final reunion with God.